



Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission
July 17, 2012
Seneca Park Golf House
2300 Pee Wee Reese Road
Meeting Notes

I. Welcome and Announcements: Katy Schneider and Henry Heuser, Jr.

Katy Schneider and Henry Heuser, Jr., Commission Co-chairs, welcomed Louisville Metro Tree Advisory Commission (hereinafter, "Commission") members and guests.

The Tree Commission meeting minutes from June 6, 2012 were approved after Todd Eberle moved and John Potter seconded the motion for approval.

II. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer/ Fund Raising: Allen Steinbock

Allen Steinbock, Commission Secretary/Treasurer is still working on the IRS application, 501(c)(3) paperwork, for the Louisville Tree Fund. He is waiting on a narrative from Co-Chairman Katy Schneider and a few other items to fill in all the blanks. Once complete, he will be meeting with the county attorney's office to finalize and submit the application.

b) Projects/ Maintenance: Mike Hayman

Katie Green has resigned from the committee; therefore Mike Hayman presented the committee report. The committee's mission is to Increase and Preserve the tree canopy of Louisville; therefore everything they are doing is furthering the mission. Prior to any detailed inventory being completed, they have identified two target areas, South West Dixie Highway, and Portland/Shawnee Neighborhood, to begin new tree planting based on Dr. Stone's findings and Shannon Scroggins' thesis. The committee has started with a small project and plans to build to larger projects. The committee is not working in competition with other organizations which have planting plans, but instead they are working to fill in the gaps along with projects that are solely their own.

Since the formation of the Tree Commission, (5) five trees have been planted at River Valley Cemetery in the shadow of the Cane Run LG&E Power Plant. The committee is in the process of soliciting additional funds from LG&E for an additional 50 trees which will be planted in the cemeteries, along the Louisville Loop, and in the neighborhood along Cane Run Road.

Councilwoman Sherry Bryant Hamilton is providing funding for 60 trees to be planted this fall. Mark White (City Arborist), John Swintosky (Metro Parks), and Mike have made three trips into the Shawnee/ Portland Neighborhood to scout out possible locations for new tree planting. However, this area is difficult to plant because of small yards, overhead wires, and small easements. Therefore the committee has targeted the wider streets, 44th Street and Shawnee Terrace for planting of 10 or 20 trees. They also are looking at areas which are public or semi private property like Flaget Community Center, Shawnee Baptist Church, and Portland Christian School, along with neighborhoods surrounding them.

Cynthia Marcel, Brightside, has funding for 75 trees to be planted this fall in West Louisville, possibly in the 9th Street, 12th and 13th Street and medians. All of these sites are great locations because they are adjacent to large volumes of soil next to a lot of pavement. Some of these trees will be planted at the African American Heritage Center, which needs trees but the conditions are extremely severe because of poor soil. However, Mike assured the commission there are trees which will thrive in that location.

The committee has had an offer to plant a small number of trees at the School for the Blind. The hope is this small project will stimulate a larger project in the future.

Paul Cappiello and Chris Chamberlin have developed a data base to track and record the location, health, and watering needs of all the newly planted trees. Young trees are killed by string trimmers, mowing, and lack of watering. The committees hope is to requite and educate members of the community to serve as watch-dogs and help monitor the newly planted young trees.

The committee is working on a signature project downtown, a quarter mile Native Tree Walk. With 300 tree wells empty in the downtown, we cannot keep planting the same tree in the same hole and expect to not get the same results. Therefore, the tree well soil capacity for each of the trees will need to be increased in order to allow these trees to achieve 50 to 100 year life spans, plus function as a storm water absorber and reduce the heat island effect. The committee has been focusing to achieve this goal with possible funding from MSD's incentive program to capture storm water runoff. This pilot project would improve the tree wells so large trees, 50-70 feet tall, are possible. Several locations have been identified; Metro Hall and the Belvedere.

In order to achieve their goals, before any money is collected and before the inventory is complete, they have decided to continue to develop small projects; however, when the projects get larger the protocol will need to be changed to fit the situation.

c) Community Outreach: Monica Orr

Katy Schneider presented the committee report in Monica Orr's absents. The committee is in the process of developing a stewardships program to adopt trees, maintain trees, and donate money for trees. Scripts for a speaker's bureau are so being developed. The intention is to have canned presentation this year, possibly power point presentation, which can be provided to groups or individuals so the message can be presented quickly and easily. They are also working to find opportunities to not only speak to groups but also to identify groups or origination with common goals which could be partners to spread the message about such topics as: Emerald Ash Bore, Benefits of Trees, maintenance, etc. Katy is also looking into a Web site.

d) Inventory/Scientific: Shane Corbin

Stephen Cotton made the presentation in Shane Corbin's absents. He reported the committee is researching what other cities, similar in size, are doing to develop or maintain their tree canopy inventory. The committee is looking at available data bases for a county wide assessment. They will review the other cities information including the RFP used to select their consultant to assist or prepare the data. The committee will then determine and assess what data we will need to develop our data base. Stephen has compared the cost of the inventory and data for several other cities, so at this point the cost for Louisville maybe around 30K with a 6 month or longer time frame from start to completion.

e) Technical Advisory: John Hamilton

John Hamilton reported the Technical Advisory Committee has met. The Committee understands their role is to assist in answering any and all questions from the Tree Commission. However, these are some of the questions or items which the commission may need answered or assistance with from the Technical Advisory Committee: Build lists of available experts; review grant proposals or project plans prior to submittal from other committees; review best management practices in urban forestry, origination structure, investment technical support, and resource inventories; prepare training for maintenance staff in Metro Government and non-profit organizations; compile a registry of tree projects in Louisville; compile previous research and identify needed research; advise the commission in goal setting for tree canopy over the various landscapes of Jefferson County; develop a management plan for Louisville's Urban Forest; convene utilities to discuss the impact of utility work on trees; and advise on alternate methods of installation and maintenance.

The committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks and await your request.

f) Policy: Gordon Garner

Katy presented the committee report for the policy committee in the absents of Gordon Garner. The development and approval of an ordinance will take some time so the committee has recommended a position be adopted by the Mayor of "No net loss of tree canopy". There is a real sense of urgency and it is a true public health issue at stake. If trees are removed then new trees are to be planted to replace the loss maybe not in the same location but somewhere in the city. The committee felt that we as a community cannot lose any more of our current existing tree canopy.

Henry Heuser discussed his committee's support of this position because 'we have to take care of what we have'. Katy discussed the Bowman Field tree removal as not being a part of the policy but she would like for the Mayor to ensure that the canopy loss from Bowman's removals be compensated with new tree planting. John Hamilton suggested the Technical Advisory Committee should look into the tools to let the Mayor know how we are doing with 'No net Loss'.

The goal is to grow the canopy and the position is to preserve the canopy. A vote was taken to present the position to the Mayor.

All commissioners present voted to adopt the position of 'No net Loss' with members Scott Hannah and Robert Eberenz abstaining.

III. Report to Mayor: Katy Schneider

Katy Schneider presented the paper on Emerald Ash Bore (EAB) which was prepared by the Ad hock committee formed to discuss options for treatment and removal of trees affected by the EAB infestation. She will be presenting the paper to the Mayor and Council.

The commission discussed a policy of not planting any new ash trees and a policy of diversification of tree species when new trees are being planted. Mesude Duyar discussed the metro parks population of Ash trees which are currently being treated and others not being treated. The commission discussed the treatment success for the different size of trees. She discussed how the metro parks staff is being used to treat the existing trees.

Katy elaborated how education is the key to get the news out to the public about the effects of EAB on the tree canopy and their options to treat or remove the existing ash trees. We can look north and see the effects of this insect. We must be preparing for the worst case.

IV. Adjourn

The next meeting will be held on August 21, 2012 location to be determined.